

George W. Bush vetoed a bill, which Congress quickly overrode, that would stop a 10.6% cut in Medicare payments to physicians and boost them 1.1% next year. Many Republicans opposed the legislation because the money to pay for it would come from more than \$12 billion in reserve to pay private insura... *George W. Bush vetoed a bill, which Congress quickly overrode, that would stop a 10.6% cut in Medicare payments to physicians and boost them 1.1% next year. Many Republicans opposed the legislation because the money to pay for it would come from more than \$12 billion in reserve to pay private insurance companies that offer Medicare Advantage. Supporters estimated that without the money, 60% of the country's doctors would have to limit the number of new Medicare patients they treat. Was Congress right to override the veto?*

Medicare, along with Social Security and Medicaid, are actually bankrupt and riddled with waste. Recently, it was discovered that Medicare paid \$92 million in drug prescriptions written by doctors who were dead when the prescriptions were written. Continuing to cut payments or raise taxes are only short-term solutions that will prolong this problem rather than solve it. We must implement a complete reform and dramatic change in these programs if they are to survive. The Medicare Advantage program has the opportunity to be a part of the change that could save Medicare by providing an element of competition in pricing, which currently does not exist. I understand the issues with which some doctors are dealing. But, it makes no sense to cut a potential long-term solution to fund something that will accelerate the unsustainability of these programs. Therefore, I opposed this bill when it was on the floor, and I voted to sustain the president's veto.

REP. JOHN CAMPBELL  
(R-Newport Beach)